

Man Under Stress. Edited by A. T. Welford. Halsted Press, New York. 140 pp. 1974.

The scope of this book, comprising papers from an ergonomics symposium (Australia, 1972), is less than the title implies. The book focuses predominantly upon experimental data, and will be of most interest to psychologists and, perhaps, physiologists. The contributions are of two kinds. The first eight contain theoretical discussions and experimental studies of human performance and behavior under stressful conditions. Phenomena studied include reaction time, information processing, the effects of physical exertion, and thermal stress arousal. The remaining six deal with medical and psychiatric aspects of stress, drawing on clinical and epidemiological data. Topics include occupational stress, adrenocortical activity, heart disease, and psychiatric illnesses.

Where the former contributions rely on experimental "stress" simulation (mostly using physical overload), the medical contributions refer to nonexperimental, life situational stress. The relationship between experimental and nonexperimental stress is not adequately discussed. Further, a holistic discussion of prevailing theories of stress might have given greater coherence to this otherwise interesting collection of research findings.

A. J. McMichael, MD, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Epidemiology  
University of North Carolina

Automatic Air Quality Monitoring Systems. T. Schneider. Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam. 267 pp. 1974. \$15.50.

This book is a compendium of papers presented at a symposium in Holland. The purpose of the symposium was to exchange knowledge on existing and planned automated air

quality monitoring systems and the analysis of the air pollution data. An international working group was formed to study the use of monitoring systems (planning, construction, operation, and data analysis). The presentations are very easy to read. Excellent technical information is presented by U.S., Japanese, and European speakers. Europe lags behind the U.S. in degree of sophistication, but not in interest and study for air pollution control. Air pollution control officials at all levels, industry personnel responsible for monitoring plant emissions, and instrument manufacturers would find this publication an excellent treatise on automatic air quality monitoring. WHO is striving for uniform analytical techniques to enable worldwide comparisons of air pollution to be made.

Edward L. Stockton  
National Sanitation Foundation  
Ann Arbor, MI

Biological Effects and Health Hazards of Microwave Radiation, Proceedings on an International Symposium, October, 1973. Poland Government, WHO and USHEW. Polish Medical Publishers. 347 pp. 1974. \$10 U.S.A., \$12.50 Foreign. NTIS PB 239-554.

This volume represents the proceedings of the only truly international symposium on the effects of microwave radiation which was held in Warsaw in October, 1973. In addition to the presented papers of the participants, the work contains succinct summaries of the discussions and a list of sound conclusions and recommendations. Differences in research findings are not glossed over. Particularly impressive to this reviewer is the absence of ideological statements and judgments. It is a "must" book for any serious student of the health effects of exposure to microwave radiation.

While this publication does not and cannot present definitive findings,

it does represent a valuable state of the art review with all the inconsistencies and disagreements noted and discussed. A special merit is that it makes possible more details of the studies done by the leading research investigators for both high and low level exposure situations than has been previously available. Even more detail is needed for proper assessment, but this symposium clearly will contribute to the necessary reconciliation of the wide divergence of research results reported for cataractogenesis and "microwave neurosis" as well as for other stated adverse effects.

Emanuel Landau, PhD  
APHA Project Director  
Environmental Health Hazards

Cruel Habitations: A History of Working-Class Housing 1780-1918. Enid Gaudie. Barnes & Noble, New York. 363 pp. 1974.

This history of working-class housing in Great Britain from 1780 to 1918 clearly reflects the influence of inadequate and substandard housing on the health and welfare of its inhabitants and of the larger community. Much is made these days of environmental stresses; however, the possible role of poor housing in the United States and elsewhere in potentiating the effects of environmental contaminants appears to be largely unrecognized. Thus, the contribution of the type of housing available for the lowest socioeconomic group to the chronic bronchitis syndrome associated with air pollution in London and the industrial centers of Britain has not been fully evaluated. Workers in the field of social and preventive medicine as well as in the areas of housing and urban planning especially should benefit from their perusal of this book.

Emanuel Landau, PhD  
APHA Project Director  
Environmental Health Hazards

Don't miss APHA's 103rd Annual Meeting  
"Health and Work in America"  
to be held  
Nov. 16-20, 1975, Chicago

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